

Vegetables, Melons, and Potatoes

Arizona has a unique place in the agricultural industry in that it is capable of producing an ever increasing variety of vegetables nearly year round. With mild winters in the lower elevations and the cooler summer temperatures in the higher elevations, the State produces an impressive variety of vegetables and melons throughout the year. Nationally, Arizona ranked third in the production of fresh market vegetables and second to only California in the production of head lettuce, leaf and romaine lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, cantaloupes, and honeydews.

During the 2011 season, 115,000 harvested acres were devoted to the principal vegetables and melon crops in

Arizona, an increase of 3 percent from a year earlier. Western head lettuce was the leader in acreage with 36,000 acres harvested, an increase of 2,000 acres from the previous season. Cantaloupes acreage totaled 20,000, and is second ranked in terms of acreage harvested. Crops showing increases in acreage from a year earlier include head lettuce, romaine lettuce, cabbage, spinach, and honeydew. Major vegetable crops with acreage below the previous year included chile peppers, cantaloupes, leaf lettuce, and watermelons.

The value of all principal vegetables and melons produced in Arizona during 2011 totaled \$1.19 billion, an increase of 32 percent from the previous year.

**Vegetable & Melon Harvested Acres
2010-11
115,000 Total Acres**

